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advantage in knowing the original sense, the gradual changes, and the present use of words, and their just and happy application. And there is no less advantage in knowing the varieties of thought and expression, that may be gathered and garnered in various and extensive reading."

11. — *A Discourse at the Funeral of the Rev. John Prince, LL. D., Senior Pastor of the First Church in Salem, on the 9th of June, 1836*, by CHARLES W. UPHAM, Surviving Pastor. Salem. 1836. 8vo. pp. 31.

DR. PRINCE was born in Boston, July 22d, 1751. He was graduated at Cambridge in 1776, was ordained November 10th, 1779, over the parent church of Massachusetts, and died June 7th of the present year. When he was about to be settled in Salem, there was some hesitation evinced on account of his apparently feeble health. But he outlived all of the society, who had any part in that transaction; and only two individuals are known, who remember the solemnities of his ordination.

Dr. Prince filled, with distinguished honor, his place of professional duty. He had qualities which made him the object of warm personal attachment, and, in extent of theological learning, he was hardly surpassed among the clergy of his time. In his large and valuable library (which he bequeathed to his congregation) there was no book which he had not read; and, such was his retentiveness of memory, that for him to read a book, was to make it his own. In the private sphere where he moved, his lot was singularly fortunate. He sustained the pastoral relation (confirming ties of intimate friendship) to some of our most distinguished men in the walks of public life and of learning. His health, during most of his life, was firm, and his mental constitution always cheerful and placid. They, to whom his mature strength had been given, provided with a most praiseworthy liberality for the comfort of his age; and, of late years, devolving the cares of his office, for the most part, on a colleague with whom he was connected in the happiest association, he had no anxieties to disturb the quiet which failing nature required and had deserved.

It is in the history of physical science, that Dr. Prince will be most remembered, though a singular facility of temper led him to such a carelessness about appropriating the credit of his labors in this department, that very inadequate justice will probably be done him. By the invention, when he was thirty-two years of age, of the apparatus since known by the name of the *American Air-Pump*, (communicated in the first volume of *Memoirs of the American Academy*,) "his name was at once en-

rolled among the benefactors and ornaments of modern science." The selection of its figure, to represent a constellation in the heavens, is a striking testimony to the sense entertained by the scientific world of its importance. The department of optics made a favorite study with him. As fast as he had made an improvement, without taking pains to identify himself with it in any public way, it was his practice to introduce it at once to usefulness, by communicating it to the mathematical instrument makers in England. His correspondence to this end with the Messrs. Adams, Messrs. Jones, and others, was voluminous. His last work of the kind was a stand for a telescope, on which it rests in a solid bed, with perfect firmness, and is at the same time movable in every direction, and by the slightest touch of the finger. He ends his description of the contrivance, as published by the American Academy, thus; "I made the brass work myself, and finished it on my birth-day, — eighty years old."

Our exhausted space forbids further particulars. The scientific journals will do better justice to this man of equal genius and modesty. Mr. Upham's notice of him is such as might be expected from the biographer of Vane, writing with the advantages of personal intimacy.

12. — *Characteristics of the Present Century. A Baccalaureate Address, &c.* By the Rev. J. ADAMS, President of the College of Charleston, South Carolina. Charleston, South Carolina. Svo. pp. 11.

THIS is a very appropriate address, from the head of a College to a class of young men, just completing their academic career. It is on the characteristics of the present century, which the author describes with force and eloquence. The theme is obviously suited to the time, the occasion, and the persons. After some happy allusions to the ceremonies by which the transition from youth to manhood has been observed among different nations, Dr. Adams passes directly to the discussion of his subject. The first characteristic of the age, which he considers, is the success which has attended our efforts for the enlargement of man's dominion over physical nature. In this connexion he gives a glowing sketch of the changes introduced by the power of steam, and anticipates improvements more wonderful than any yet made. The second prominent characteristic, which he discusses, is the cultivation and advancement of the sciences, by which our age is rendered illustrious. In treating